# It's not too late! More Fall classes begin Oct. 1, Oct. 18

The Fall 2025 semester is in full swing at Washtenaw Community College, but you haven't missed the opportunity to get started!

Registration is ongoing for later-starting Fall 2025 courses with on-campus, online and mixed mode classes starting on October 1 and October 18.

These classes with later starting dates cover the same material at an accelerated pace, ideal for working adults with family and job responsibilities.

Visit wccnet.edu/enroll to complete a free application, schedule an in-person or virtual campus visit, review areas of study, enroll and register for classes.

WCC offers more than 140 university transfer and career education associate degree and certificate programs, including over 50 of which can be completed entirely online.

At $99 per in-district student credit, WCC's tuition is one of the lowest in the state. Students who attend WCC save up to $20,000 per academic year compared to four-year public and private institutions in Michigan.

Plus, WCC offers affordable payment options and a number of financial aid and scholarship opportunities are available.

Call 734-973-3543 or email go2wcc@wccnet.edu for more information.

Washtenaw Community College
ON THE RECORD
ontherecord.wccnet.edu /WashtenawCC @WashtenawCC @WashtenawCC SEPTEMBER 2025

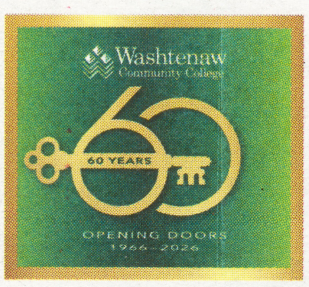
FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Thank you for 60 years of support!

**By DR. ROSE B. BELLANCA**
WCC President

We are embarking on a truly special milestone for Washtenaw Community College – our 60th anniversary.

In January 1965, Washtenaw County voters approved the formation of a new community college, and just over a year later, in September 1966, the first students walked through our doors. Those students' belief in the promise of education created the foundation for what has grown into one of the most respected community colleges in the nation.




WCC exists because of our supportive community. Because of you!

From the decisive 1965 vote that established the college to the resounding 3-to-1 approval of our millage renewal and restoration in 2020, Washtenaw County residents have supported WCC every step of the way.

That support allowed us to expand programs, strengthen student services, build modern facilities, and ensure that higher education remains within reach for everyone in our county.

As we celebrate 60 years of opening doors, I want to recognize what we've accomplished and thank our residents for helping us fulfill our mission.

From the earliest days, WCC has welcomed learners of every age, background, and ambition – whether they were beginning their college journey, retraining for a new career, or sharpening their skills to meet the demands of a changing economy. Sixty years later, that's still happening on our campus every day.

We are proud to honor the visionaries who built this institution and celebrate the countless students, faculty, staff and community partners who shaped it.

The history of Washtenaw Community College is, at its heart, the story of a community that believes in the power of education. Thank you for being part of that story for the past six decades – and for walking with us into the next.

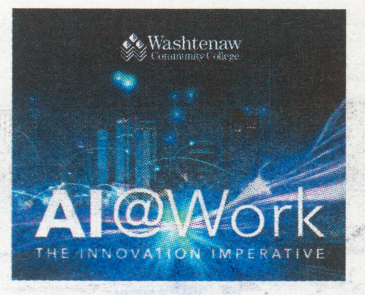
In the top photo, construction of the Washtenaw Community College Student Center nears completion in 1975. Today, the 280-acre campus on Huron River Drive includes 1.2 million square feet of building space.

## Seeking WCC Success Stories

To celebrate our 60th anniversary, WCC will be sharing the stories of 60 alumni over the next year whose lives and careers reflect the promise and impact of a WCC education. These stories will highlight the many ways our graduates contribute to Washtenaw County — strengthening industries, serving communities, and shaping the world around them.

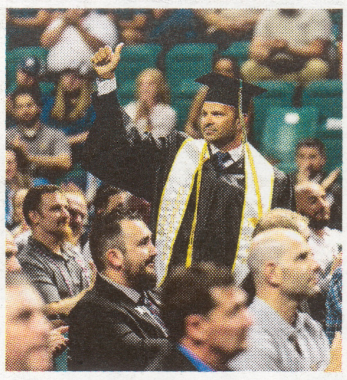
If you are a WCC alumni — especially those who attended in the 1960s, 70s and 80s — and willing to share your success story, please fill out the form that can be found at washtenaw.cc/60alumni.

## INSIDE




### EXPERTS TO SPEAK ON AI AT WORK

How are organizations transforming and thriving by leveraging artificial intelligence? WCC is hosting a conference for business leaders, innovators and decision makers to discuss the pressing topic. **PAGE 3**



### UA MEMBERS EARN DEGREE

At the end of its annual Instructor Training Program, the United Association honors those who've finished the program at a completion ceremony. Sprinkled among the 100+ ITP grads are a few dozen members in cap and gown who also earned a WCC associate degree. **PAGE 4**

## MORE INSIDE

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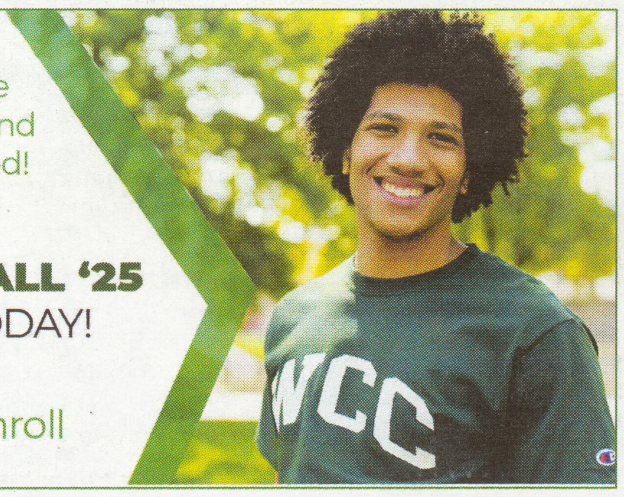
WCC programs are affordable, flexible and nationally recognized!

ENROLL FOR **FALL '25** SEMESTER TODAY!

wccnet.edu/enroll

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Washtenaw Community College strives to make a positive difference in people's lives through accessible and excellent educational programs and services.

*On the Record* is written and designed by the WCC Marketing and Communications Department, Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105-4800.

Questions about the WCC programs and services described in this publication should be directed to the Office of Admissions at 734-973-3543.

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Washtenaw Community College is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission, 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, Illinois 60604-1411; 800-621-7440; hlcommision.org. Call 734-973-3300 for information about Washtenaw Community College.

### ADA/EEO/Title IX/Section 504 Compliance Statements

Washtenaw Community College does not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, marital status, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other protected status in its programs and activities. The following office has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Vice President of Student Services, SC 251, 734-973-3536. Facility access inquiries: V.P. of Facilities, Development & Operations, PO 112, 734-677-5322. If you have a disability and require accommodation to participate in an on-campus event, contact Learning Support Services at 734-973-3342 to request accommodations at least 72 hours in advance. © 2023 Washtenaw Community College.

### Title II Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act Compliance Statement

The Student-Right-to-Know and The Crime Awareness & Campus Security Act of 1990 (also known as the Clery Act) requires institutions to disclose information about graduation rates, crime statistics, and security information to current and prospective students. Individuals interested in obtaining this type of information should contact the Dean of Students office at 734-973-3328. Copyright 2022 Washtenaw Community College.

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WCC President

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## AI classes for small businesses among new non-credit options

Artificial intelligence will take center stage this Fall in Washtenaw Community College's lineup of non-credit professional development and personal enrichment courses.

The Fall semester highlights technology innovation and how applied AI can boost business productivity and empower ideas, work and life.

Classes are designed for business owners and adult learners just discovering how to use the new innovative tools.

Tom Keuten will teach students how to make AI accessible and actionable in "Introduction to Generative AI" and "Generative AI for Business: From Idea to Value." Keuten is a technology strategist who works as Senior Vice President at RightPoint.

AI classes are among an array of diverse new offerings in the areas of professional development, fast-track job training industry certifications and personal enrichment.

Descriptions of non-credit classes can be viewed below in the Campus Calendar and a full roster may be viewed at wccnet.edu/noncredit.

Fast-track job training programs are aligned with industry certifications, offering community members a way to quickly earn the skills or credentials that employers want, sometimes in as little as a few weeks.

Three certifications are offered in the high-demand, high-paying field of fiber optics, in which the median annual wage for a technician is $65,000, according to Lightcast data. Additional fast-track programs are offered in cybersecurity, website design, digital marketing, healthcare and fitness, and paralegal job markets.

Personal enrichment classes are offered in creative arts; hobbies and exploration; home and life; languages; and well-being.

Additionally, experienced trainers are encouraged to apply to lead future non-credit, skills-based classes that support adult learners and workforce development.

## October 21 career fair is free, open to public

The 2025 Fall Career & Internship Fair at Washtenaw Community College is expected to include representatives from an estimated 70 employers.

The event is free and open to the public from 4-6 p.m. on Tuesday, October 21 in the Morris Lawrence Building on the college's campus.

Pre-registration is requested, but not required, and available at wccnet.edu/careerfair.

This is your chance to connect directly with company representatives who are actively hiring for positions.

Bring copies of your resume, dress professionally, and be ready to introduce yourself, ask questions, explore different career paths, and learn how you can become part of a team that fits your goals.

The WCC Center for Career Success also invites attendees to participate in an interactive workshop that covers essential strategies for success at a career fair.

Visit wccnet.edu/careerfair to choose an in-person or virtual workshop time that suits your schedule.

The next career fair will be held on March 25.

## WCC honored for its pollinator conservation

WCC has been recognized as a Bee Campus USA affiliate of the Xerces Society for the sixth consecutive year.

Bee Campus USA is a program that recognizes, supports and encourages pollinator conservation on college and university campuses.

The recognition is awarded for working to enhance pollinator habitats, reduce pesticide use and educate the community.

WCC is one of five campuses in Michigan and 215 across the country to earn the honor.

To learn more about the college's Bee Campus USA program, visit washtenaw.cc/buzz. ●

# Washtenaw Community College CAMPUS CALENDAR

## CAMPUS EVENTS

### AI@WORK CONFERENCE

**9/24** AI@Work: The Innovation Imperative on Wednesday, Sept. 24 at WCC will bring together experts from the automotive, healthcare, energy and education sectors to explore how AI is transforming the workplace and reshaping leadership across industries. Visit wccnet.edu/ai to purchase tickets. See full description on page 3.

### WELLNESS FAIR

**10/1** The WCC Personal Counseling department will host its annual Wellness Fair from 1-3 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 1 on the first floor of the Student Center. College departments and off-campus vendors will showcase how their services can help WCC students and members of the community. Free and open to the public.

### UNIVERSITY TRANSFER FAIR

**10/8** Representatives from colleges and universities across the state will visit the WCC campus from 3-5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 8. This event is free to current and prospective students interested in learning more about their college transfer options.

### CAREER & INTERNSHIP FAIR

**10/21** The WCC Center for Career Success' annual Fall Career & Internship Fair will be held from 4-6 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 21 in the Morris Lawrence Building on campus. This event is free and open to the public. See story above for more details.

### WINTER REGISTRATION OPENS

**10/21** Registration for the Winter 2026 semester is available to continuing students on Wednesday, Oct. 22 and for new students on Thursday, Oct. 22. Get started at wccnet.edu/enroll. Class schedules for the semester will be available at wccnet.edu/catalog beginning Wednesday, Sept. 24. Classes begin on Monday, Jan. 12, 2026.

## CORPORATE TRAINING & LIFELONG LEARNING

Register for these non-credit classes and see a complete list of available topics at wccnet.edu/noncredit.

### MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP
**Mastering Public Speaking**

**10/1** Getting comfortable speaking in public can be a great ego booster, not to mention a huge benefit to your career. This workshop will give you some valuable public speaking skills, including in-depth information on developing an engaging program and delivering your presentation with power.

Wednesday, Oct. 1 or Wednesday, Oct. 8 or Saturday, Oct. 10
Location: On campus
Cost: $69

### VISUAL ARTS
**Water-Mixable Oils: Monochromatic Colors**

**10/6** Ever wonder how to paint monochromatic scenes using water-mixable oils? Join this class to paint variations on a single color and ultimately create a visually unique monochromatic masterpiece.

Mondays, Oct. 6-13
Location: Webinar
Cost: $65

### FOOD & DRINK
**Rustic Italian Cooking: Artichoke Lasagna**

**10/8** Learn to make artichoke lasagna (fresh sheets of pasta layered with tomato sauce, sauteed artichoke hearts and cheeses); roasted bell peppers (baked with bread crumbs, olives, pine nuts and fresh fresh herbs); and zucchini frittata (sauteed diced zucchini with scrambled eggs, basil and parmigiana cheese). For dessert, fresh seasonal fruit marinated with honey and vermouth and topped with mascarpone cream.

Wednesday, Oct. 8
Location: Dixboro Methodist Church
Cost: $45

### DIGITAL MARKETING
**Effective Video Marketing**

**10/9** Learn how to tell your story, provide useful information and engage your audience. We will analyze videos from successful national campaigns and local favorites, and discuss tips that will help you create value for your viewers.

Thursday, Oct. 9
Location: On campus
Cost: $99

### CREATIVE WRITING
**Writing from the Heart**

**10/13** Discover your inner voice through writing creative nonfiction. Gain hands-on experience on how to begin the creative writing process and learn to discover and explore your creativity.

Mondays, Oct. 13-27
Location: Webinar
Cost: $99

### FITNESS
**Trail Walks 2.0**

**10/18** If you have trail walking experience or want to expand your fitness skills, join this class. We will walk five different five-mile trails, providing a holistic second step to increase mind, body and spirit fitness.

Saturdays, Oct. 18-Nov. 15
Location: TBA
Cost: $130

### WELL-BEING
**Reawakening the Mother Earth Connection**

**10/27** This transdisciplinary course offers experiential opportunities to explore our vastness and interconnectedness. From reflexology to polyvagal theory, we will combine timeless traditions with scientific research to demonstrate how inner networks communicate with the natural world.

Mondays, Oct. 27-Nov. 10
Location: Webinar
Cost: $32

*What Do You Call Someone Who Attended WCC?*
**Employed.**©

**ENROLL FOR FALL TODAY!**
Later-starting sessions begin on October 1 & October 18
wccnet.edu/enroll

# WCC brings together industry powerhouses to explore AI and the future of business

**By FRAN LeFORT**
Director of Media Relations

Washtenaw Community College will convene leading regional and national voices from the automotive, healthcare, energy and education sectors for its inaugural artificial intelligence conference, a high-impact event exploring how AI is transforming the workplace and reshaping leadership across industries.

"AI@Work: The Innovation Imperative" will be held on Wednesday, September 24 in the Morris Lawrence Building on WCC's campus, 4800 E. Huron River Drive in Ann Arbor.

Open to educators, executives, policymakers and innovation leaders, the conference will provide actionable insights into AI's evolving role in business decision-making, workforce development and operational performance.

Visit wccnet.edu/ai to purchase tickets.

Renowned keynote speaker Alex Goryachev, a LinkedIn Top AI Voice, bestselling author and recognized thought leader on emerging technology, will headline the event. He will speak on "Leadership in the Age of AI," addressing how AI's exponential pace is redefining learning, strategy and competitive advantage.

Other featured speakers include:

- Karthik Duraisamy, Founder and Chief Scientist at Geminus.AI
- Lisa Prasad, VP and Chief Innovation Officer at Henry Ford Health
- Rajeev Kalamdani, Director of Manufacturing & IIoT Analytics at Ford Motor Company
- Yong Li, Data Science Manager at DTE Energy
- Brad Orr, Associate VP for Research, Science and Engineering at University of Michigan
- Aidan Sova, Regional Product Lead of AI-Powered Ads at Google
- Bill Mayer, Senior VP of Entrepreneurial Services at Ann Arbor SPARK
- Dr. Rose B. Bellanca, President at Washtenaw Community College

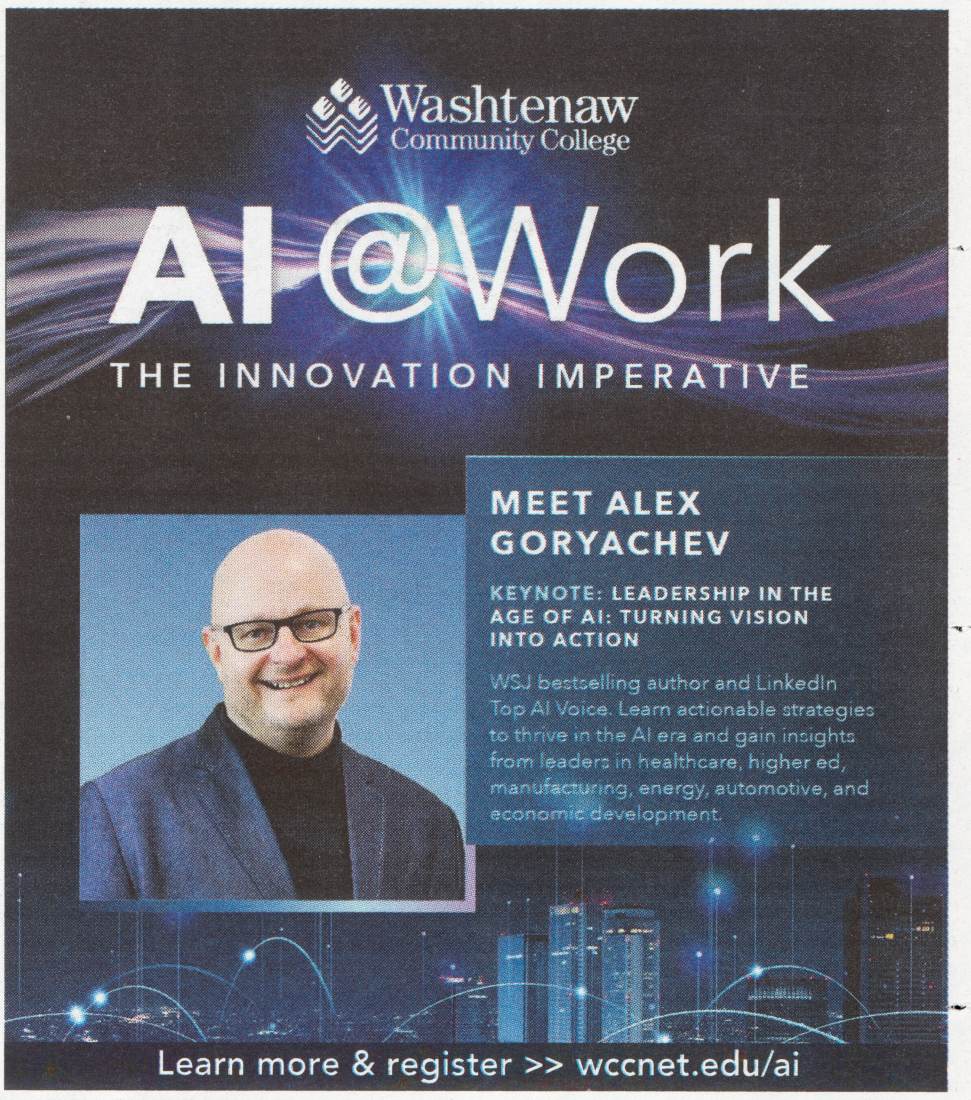
"Washtenaw Community College is committed to fueling the region's economic vitality," said Bellanca. "We're proud to be a convening force for leaders across industries as they explore how to harness the full potential of artificial intelligence in their operations."

Attendees will learn how AI is being used to unlock insights from real-world business data, enabling smarter decisions around customers, product development, workforce performance and service delivery.

The event will also highlight WCC's growing role as a strategic education and innovation partner in Michigan's evolving AI ecosystem.

The day will end with a panel discussion featuring Google, Ann Arbor SPARK and WCC exploring the state and region's strategic priorities, including education as a key driver of economic growth.

AI@Work: The Innovation Imperative is a featured event leading into Ann Arbor SPARK's a2Tech360, a celebration of technology and innovation from September 24-October 3. ●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AI@Work
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WSJ bestselling author and LinkedIn Top AI Voice. Learn actionable strategies to thrive in the AI era and gain insights from leaders in healthcare, higher ed, manufacturing, energy, automotive, and economic development.
Learn more & register >> wccnet.edu/ai

PHOTOS BY KARI KLAVON

## RECORD TURNOUT AT WASHTENAW VET FEST

The Washtenaw Vet Fest hosted by WCC's Wadhams Veterans Center had record attendance in its fourth year being held on the college's campus.

Washtenaw County veterans, active-duty personnel and military-connected families were invited to spend an enjoyable day filled with free music, food and family fun. Personnel from the Ann Arbor American Legion *(left photo)* estimated they served over 700 lunches.

More than 40 veteran service providers and agencies shared resources at the event *(top photo)*.

Financial or resource partners this year included the Michigan Army National Guard (Ypsilanti), which led engineering demonstrations; Erwin Prieskorn American Legion (Post 46); Washtenaw County Department of Veteran Affairs; Veterans of Foreign Wars (Graf-O'Hara Post 423); Ann Arbor Veterans Administration; Vietnam Veterans of America (Chapter 310); and the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency.

STUDENT VETERAN PROFILE

PHOTO BY JD SCOTT

# 'If I could do a four-year degree here, I would'

Washtenaw Community College serves approximately 500 student veterans and families each year. We introduce you to one of our recent veteran graduates:

**NAME:** Skylar Parks

**BRANCH:** United States Army (2019-23)

**AT WCC:** Completed a General Studies–Math & Natural Science associate degree in May 2025. Successfully transferred to the University of Michigan for Fall 2025.

**WHY WCC:** "I was originally going to apply directly to U-M, but was advised to get my GPA up first. I knew the GI benefits are great and that WCC is essentially a breeding ground for U-M transfers, and I had read really good reviews online. If I could do a four-year degree here, I would."

**IMPRESSIONS OF WCC:** "Employees of the Wadhams Veterans Center on campus have gone out of their way to make sure I have the resources I need. Going into the Veterans Center for a quiet space between classes has been great. I was also involved with the Student Veterans Association and the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society."

**CAREER PATH:** "I'm going into environmental engineering because I want to become a subject matter expert in sustainability issues."

**GOALS:** "My end goal is to work for the Department of Natural Resources at the federal level. I would love to influence decision-making, help develop sustainable infrastructure and work in the conservation of natural resources." ●

PHOTOS BY JD SCOTT

WCC President Dr. Rose B. Bellanca (first row, center) stands alongside 32 United Association members who earned an associate degree at the end of the trade union's Instructor Training Program.

# After contributing millions to local economy, UA members leave with WCC associate degrees

**By RICH REZLER**
Director of Communications

The United Association is the largest and longest trade union training partner of Washtenaw Community College.

This summer, five different unions called the WCC campus home for their train-the-trainer programs, contributing an estimated $23 million to the Washtenaw County economy, according to a study by Destination Ann Arbor.

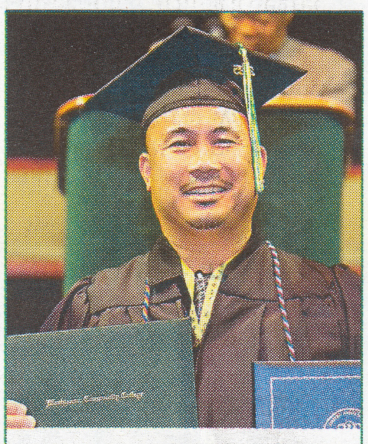
When the United Association came to town for a week in early August, more than 3,000 members filled classrooms across the WCC campus, and then spent time and money at local hotels, restaurants and retail shops.

Union trainers come to campus for a week and receive hands-on instruction to stay ahead of the curve in cutting-edge skills and technological developments in their industry.

After visiting Ann Arbor for five summers, the union members complete the UA Instructor Training Program. Others also take online WCC classes year-round in pursuit of a WCC associate degree.

Since partnering on the distance learning program in 2013, a total of 1,133 union members have earned a WCC associate degree.

Let's meet three of WCC's most recent alumni who received their degrees during an August 14 United Association completion ceremony:



### Noel Jucaban

**AGE:** 45

**DEGREE:** Industrial Training

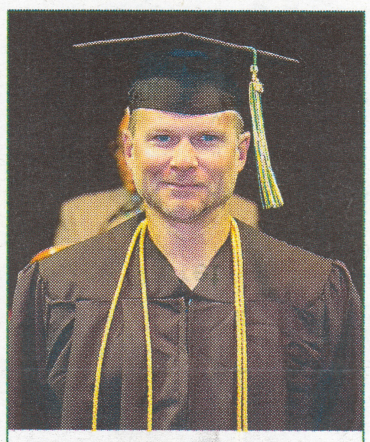
**JUCABAN SAYS:** "Everyone I've dealt with at Washtenaw comes across as motivating and inspirational. They really pushed me in the right direction. Earning a degree is something I've always wanted to do, primarily so I'm prepared if I get hurt and need to move to another career."

### Joe Mitsch

**AGE:** 40

**DEGREE:** Industrial Training

**MITSCH SAYS:** "As a guy who grew up in the trades and isn't a college graduate, this feels like a big achievement for me. I put a lot of work into it. It's been a long journey. My wife and I were just joking that this will be the first weekend I don't have homework in a long time."



### Bruce Garrett

**AGE:** 42

**DEGREE:** Industrial Training

**GARRETT SAYS:** "I wanted to show my kids you can get a degree at any age. It was a little challenging to fit the classwork in with my full-time work and being a father, but I feel like it was worth the extra effort."


MASQUERADE
2025 WCC FOUNDATION GALA
UNMASKING POSSIBILITIES

The WCC Foundation celebrates its 40th year of supporting student success at Washtenaw Community College.

This year's Gala, "Unmasking Possibilities," takes place on Saturday, November 8. All proceeds support making education affordable, accessible and impactful.

Scan the QR code or visit wccnet.edu/gala to learn more.

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**Sponsorship opportunities are available at wccnet.edu/gala.**